

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants respectfully submit a replacement sheet, Fig. 2, and a marked-up sheet showing the changes made to Fig. 2.

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the reference character 32 has been used to designate two different parts in figure 2. Figure 2 has been revised to change one of the reference numerals to 34, which is the correct number and corresponds to the part in the specification. Accordingly, Applicant requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 7 contain allowable subject matter. However, as explained below, Applicant believes that all of the claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuffel (U.S. 6,450,316) (or Kubota U.S. 5,622,246) in view of Kotkata (U.S. 4,863,006). Claim 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuffel (or Kubota) in view of Stoxen (U.S. 6,601,688). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hauer (Applicant assumes that the Examiner means Stuffel) (or Kubota) in view of Spannhake (U.S. 6,267,219). For applications filed on or after November 29, 1999, the rejection using the Stuffel reference may be overcome by showing that the subject matter of the reference and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. See 35 U.S.C. 103(c), MPEP 706.02(l)(1) and 706.02(l)(2). As noted in the clear and conspicuous statement below, Application serial number 10/527,729 and U.S. 6,450,316 were, at the time the invention of Application serial number 10/527,729 was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to Otis Elevator Company. Therefore, Stuffel (U.S. 6,450,316) is now disqualified as prior art and must not be used in a 35 U.S.C. 103(a) obviousness rejection. Accordingly, the various rejections of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) with regard to Stuffel should be withdrawn.

Statement Concerning Common Ownership

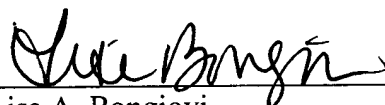
Application serial number 10/527,729 and U.S. Patent 6,450,316 were, at the time the invention of Application serial number 10/527,729 was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to Otis Elevator Company.

As for the rejection using Kubota and Kotkata, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite the following: "a plurality of marking elements (34) arranged in a line on the flange elements (28) and the bridge elements (30) along the circulating direction and having a limited width perpendicular to the circulating direction." Neither Kubota nor Kotkata teach or suggest that element. The Examiner states that the plurality of marking elements is represented by elements 811 and 821 in the Kubota reference. These marking elements are not located on both the flange elements, which the Examiner has stated is elements 410 and 430 in the Kubota reference, and the bridge elements, which the Examiner has stated is elements 412 and 423 in the Kubota reference. There are no marking elements that are arranged in a line on the flange elements and the bridge elements in any of the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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